

## Quarterly Programs and Issues 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2017 - WRHI

### Programs:

WRHI provides local newscasts 24 hours a day from Monday at 5:30am through Saturday at noon. Eight long-form newscasts are delivered in the morning and three in the afternoon. Plus six ninety second updates in the afternoon and evening, and sixty second updates twenty times per day, for a total of twenty seven newscasts per day. WRHI also posts a daily summary news headline page on its internet web site, [www.wrhi.com](http://www.wrhi.com).

Public Service Announcements are aired on a rotating basis, prerecorded. Some are voiced by members of the community. They air daily.

Straight Talk is a locally-produced news and public affairs program which airs on weekdays, Monday through Friday. It is a thirty minute in-depth interview program featuring newsmakers and issues in the news. The program features discussion of a wide variety of topics of interest of concern for the upstate of South Carolina. A complete listing of daily guests and issues is updated regularly and is included on our website, [www.wrhi.com](http://www.wrhi.com).

### Examples of critical issues covered on WRHI during the quarter:

A suspected case of tuberculosis involving a student at Castle Heights Middle School in Rock Hill has been confirmed, according to school officials. On December 23rd, the principal at Castle Heights Middle School John Kirell sent a letter to parents advising them of the potential situation. Laboratory tests have now confirmed the case involving an 8th grade student according to Principal Kirell. The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control has been investigating,

Seven new laws passed by S.C. legislators last spring go into effect with the start of the new year. S.C. lawmakers passed a law meant to protect poor families who lack written property deeds from real estate speculators looking to buy up their land on the cheap. Named for the state senator slain in Charleston's June 2015 Emanuel A.M.E. Church shooting, the Clementa C. Pinckney Uniform Partition of Heirs' Property Act creates safeguards to ensure family members are not forced to sell heirs' property, especially at prices below market value. The ethics reform bill passed late last session, along with another new law that empowers a revamped eight-member Ethics Commission to investigate allegations against legislators, who previously investigated themselves. Elected officials must list the source and type of any private income that they receive when they file statements of economic interest. Those statements also must include the income of their spouses and family members. After twenty years the North Carolina South Carolina border has been clarified and ratified. The border adjustment, approved by both states, moved 16 people who thought they lived in South Carolina into North Carolina.

A federal judge has shut out the public from a second hearing on the competency of a man charged with killing nine black people during Bible study at a South Carolina church. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel ruled Monday that Dylann Roof's right to a fair trial could be hampered if jurors mulling his sentence learned the contents of the hearing. Gergel said he would have had to sequester the jury if he opened up the hearing. The judge said he didn't think jurors would intentionally seek out information about the result but might come by it inadvertently, a risk he couldn't take. Gergel said he'd release a transcript of the hearing after a verdict is reached in the case.

District Judge Richard Gergel issued the ruling after a hearing that lasted much of Monday and was closed to the public. The sentencing phase of Roof's trial was originally slated to start today, but Judge Gergel pushed it back to Wednesday due to Monday's events. The judge also set a few rules for Roof... including that he cannot approach any witnesses or the jury while making his arguments. He also must sit in the seat furthest from them. That jury is the same one that convicted Roof on all 33 federal counts last month for killing nine black parishioners during a Bible study. They will determine if the 22-year-old should be sentenced to death or given life in prison.

While the South Carolina agency that oversees student testing hasn't officially recommended grading schools A through F on public report cards, the very suggestion has prompted a backlash from educators. District superintendents, state Department of Education officials and teachers' representatives were among opponents speaking against the idea at a Dec. 12 subcommittee meeting. The letter grades are under discussion as the state's Education Oversight Committee attempts to craft a new, single education accountability system that's simple to understand and more informative.

A Monday night armed robbery occurred at the Sam's Mart Shell station at 1754 Saluda Street in Rock Hill. At 10:36 Rock Hill Police Officers were dispatched to the store where they were advised by the clerk that a white male entered the store and approached the counter producing a handgun and demanding all of the store's cash. The suspect is described as a white male wearing a grey hoodie. No suspect has been identified or arrests made as this case is an ongoing investigation.

A Rock Hill woman has been charged with exposing herself in front of her four children, who range from 3 to 10 years old. Latigra Heath told police that she was paid to clean a business wearing lingerie. Rock Hill police said people outside the Saluda Street business could see Heath stripping and exposing herself while her children were present. Heath is charged with four counts each of child neglect and indecent exposure.

DHEC is partnering with the Rock Hill School District to hold a parent meeting at Castle Heights Middle School to address the recent confirmed case of tuberculosis at the school. The meeting will address what happened...what the next steps are and give the parents to ask questions to DHEC officials. The tuberculosis case was confirmed on December 23rd. The meeting will begin at 530 PM.

A hearing in the civil lawsuit against accused serial killer Todd Kohlhepp, by the Anderson women he allegedly held chained inside a metal storage container for two months, is scheduled for Thursday morning in Spartanburg. Among motions to be presented is a request for the appointment of a receiver to identify and control Kohlhepp's assets. The former real-estate agent and registered sex offender has been charged with seven counts of murder and two kidnappings, according to warrants.

New wheels on new buses will go around the state state schools this year. The Department of Education released a statement today (Friday) saying that they received 11 bus rebates worth \$1.1 million dollars from the Environmental Protection Agency to purchase 57 new school buses.

York County Councilman and Rock Hill citizen Bump Roddey came before City Council last night to recommend embracing the phrase Football City USA. Roddey mentioned an article by the New York Times that went in depth about the football talent that the City of Rock Hill has produced and his plan on how to embrace the motto.

The Rock Hill school district is considering a policy that would call for random drug testing among student-athletes. Bill Warren, athletic director at Rock Hill High School, proposed a pilot drug testing program to the Rock Hill school board during a work session Monday. An informational meeting with parents, students and community members was held Oct. 17. Warren talked with the school board about

why the program is needed, but did not ask board members to take action. Random drug testing would cost the district, which would pay for the tests, about \$3,000 for the first year, or \$15 to \$20 per test, Warren said. If approved by the school board, drug tests would begin with winter sports in 2017, which include boys and girls basketball and wrestling. Warren said there have been parent complaints about drugs in school sports and student arrests. He said this is the third attempt at implementing a drug test program in Rock Hill schools.

The jury in the trial of Charleston Church shooter Dylann Roof have unanimously come to the verdict to sentence Roof to the death penalty for what the jury deemed as hate crimes. Roof said during trial today that he didn't have to do what he did but he meant when he said he felt like he had to do it. After being sentenced to death Roof requested new lawyers to help him file a motion for a mistrial. Judge Richard Gergel said he would consider the motion but Roof would have to articulate reasons as to why that would be necessary. His sentencing hearing will be tomorrow at 930 am.

A 20-year-old man is the second suspect charged with three counts of attempted murder in connection with a Dec. 1 shooting at a Rock Hill home, according to a police report. Brandon Javon Adams was arrested Monday, the report states. A South Pointe High School student, Jerrimyhia Roach, 17, was arrested Friday at the school and charged in the case, police said. Detectives determined Adams had been involved in the Constance Way shooting and arrested him, police said. Adams also was charged with one count of criminal conspiracy, police said. Roach also faces three counts of attempted murder in the case. He also was charged with possession of a weapon during a violent crime and possession of a handgun by a person under the age of 18. Further details about the case were not available from police.

A legislative committee seeking solutions for a \$25 billion gap in what South Carolina has promised its state employee retirees vs. what it has in assets are warning they'll need to make expensive changes to fix it. The Joint Committee on Pension Review issued recommendations Tuesday... including increasing the amount that state government pays into the system... assuming a lower return on investment... and limiting the number of state agencies which oversee the fund. State Treasurer Curtis Loftis was furious the plan would remove his office from acting as custodian... saying he was the first elected official to sound alarm bells about the problem.

The City Club of Rock Hill announced in an email today that they will temporarily be ceasing operations and closing down on the 5th of February after a failure to reach an agreement with the landlord of the building. The landlord has decided he has different plans for the space and has asked the City Club to vacate the site as of Monday February 6th. The Board of governors is currently exploring other options for continuing operations in another venue and will hold a membership meeting in the next 60 days at the Cotton Factory to discuss if there are any options available.

Pennington primary Care held a ribbon cutting ceremony at their building on Piedmont Boulevard in regards to a new medical practice at the care center. Amanda Pennington a Dr at the Care Center talked about the new practice. About two dozen people attended the ribbon cutting and there was an open house held afterwards. More information can be found at Pennington primary care dot com.

In a State of the State speech that sounded more like a farewell address, Governor Nikki Haley said South Carolina's national reputation has gone from "late night joke" to an economic power that comes together in time of crisis or natural disaster the past six years. Haley's speech will be perhaps one of her final public appearances before her expected confirmation as the next United Nations ambassador.

The Department of Homeland Security granted South Carolina another a 4 1/2 month extension for making changes to the state driver's license required by the federal REAL ID Act of 2005. So, for the time being, a South Carolina driver's license will be accepted for gaining access to a military facility like Fort Jackson or Shaw Air Force Base and other federal facilities. The restrictions are set to expand to

include getting on an airplane in January 2018 if the state still has not made the required changes. The reprieve was announced Thursday night by state Sen. Larry Grooms, chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee.

A man who was struck and killed by a train Wednesday has been identified by York County Coroner Sabrina Gast. The victim, Donnie Smith, 57, has no known address. Rock Hill Police said the man was sleeping between the rails when he was hit around 5 a.m. Wednesday on the Norfolk Southern railroad tracks off East White Street. The incident remains under investigation. Rock Hill Police Department said there was no witness.

Confirmation hearings for Congressman Mick Mulvaney to be the next head of the Office of Management and Budget may be getting underway this week in Washington. The 49 year old South Carolina Congressman would oversee federal regulations and a budget quickly approaching 4 trillion dollars. Trump called Mulvaney a very high energy leader who would make smart choices about America's budget.

An indoor sports facility is one of the many things on the way to downtown Rock Hill in the University Center in Knowledge Park. City Councilman John Black says they are now looking at how to get people to rent out the future facility. Black says that the indoor sports facility is just an example of what Rock Hill Parks Recreation and Tourism does so well. The facility will be able to host up to 72 different sporting events and is scheduled to be completed in 2018.

At the same meeting yesterday Rock Hill leaders and City Council also discussed the transit plan that had been heavily discussed among the public in Rock Hill last week. The public wanted to extend access to the proposed bus transit system closer to residential homes and local stores along the Heckle Boulevard corridor. After hearing the public city officials revealed an updated map with the proposed transportation routes which would better serve more Rock Hill residents allowing them to reach grocery stores or work. The major change comes on the westernmost route, which already stretches from Piedmont Medical Center, down Constitution Boulevard and through downtown Rock Hill before passing through Fountain Park and servicing Saluda Street. The proposed new route would keep those streets in play, while adding stops along S.C. 901, or Heckle Boulevard. It would serve as a connector between Herlong Avenue and Saluda Street.

Police are investigating after they said two people were shot to death and another was hospitalized Wednesday night in Rock Hill. The shooting happened at about 7 p.m. on Blake Street, off Saluda Street. Police said when they arrived, they found two people shot. Jimmy Williamson, 26, died at the scene and the other was flown to Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte with serious injuries. Another shooting victim, 18-year-old Mekhi Rawlinson, showed up later in a private vehicle at Piedmont Medical Center with serious injuries and he later died. Investigators have not released the name of the third person who was shot. That victim is still at CMC in Charlotte with life-threatening injuries. Police have not made any arrests and have not said what may have led to the shootings, but did say they are not looking for anyone else. The investigation is ongoing.

Chad Connelly Director National Director of Faith and Engagement for the Republican National Committee has made an unofficial decision on whether he will make a run at Congressman Mick Mulvaney's seat when Mulvaney is officially installed as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

High school athletes in Rock Hill School District Three who want to transfer solely for athletic reasons will now have to sit out a year. The principals at Rock Hill, Northwestern and South Pointe high schools all agreed student transfers for purely athletics-based reasons are having a detrimental effect on coaches'

abilities to build and maintain athletic programs. The new rule, which went into effect Jan. 1, also allows student-athletes transferring for legitimate reasons to appeal their 365-day wait period to a five-person panel. Transfer students can appeal to the Athletic Appeals Committee. Rock Hill District Three director of communications Mychal Frost said since the new rule went into effect, one transfer appeal has been turned down and several other requests have been withdrawn.

45 year old Derron Mcrae was arrested Thursday and charged with possession of marijuana with intent to distribute after Rock Hill police found nearly 1.5 pounds of marijuana in his vehicle. In a police report, officers said they found approximately 468.23 grams of weed in a white 5-gallon bucket, 171.43 grams inside a silver bag, and 27.88 grams in a clear zip lock bag under the driver's seat. In each of these stashes, the marijuana was divided into smaller bags. Police also found a silver scale in a book bag, the report said.

Monday 19 year old Quinteris Miller pleaded guilty, and when sentenced Wednesday is expected to get 30 years in prison under a negotiated deal with prosecutors. Miller shot up a Rock Hill house occupied by women and kids because he was mad he was knockerd out with a brick in a street fight. A week later he killed the wrong man after his first attempt at revenge had failed. Miller, pleaded guilty Monday to six charges including murder and three counts of attempted murder and weapons charges. Yet Miller did not admit to any details of the crimes, choosing instead to plead guilty under what is called an Alford plea. Miller accepted that a jury likely would find him guilty, so he accepted the punishment of a guilty plea. n Miller made no statements in court, except to say he was pleading guilty.

The retrial for the former South Carolina police officer charged with killing a man following a traffic stop is now scheduled for August. A judge Tuesday agreed to move the date for Michael Slager's court proceedings to August 28, 2017. His defense team had asked for a postponement, saying they couldn't get all their witnesses scheduled for the original March date. Last December, a jury failed to reach a unanimous verdict for or against Slager in the death of 50-year-old Walter Scott. The jury spent nearly 20 hours over four days deliberating, in what the judge in the case called the longest deliberation he'd seen in his career, before announcing they were hopelessly deadlocked. The trial lasted over a month Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman resigned Tuesday in order to avoid becoming the state's lieutenant governor. The state's most powerful politician, Leatherman — who chairs the Senate's powerful budget-writing Finance Committee — said in November he was not interested in becoming lieutenant governor, an essentially powerless position. The question of who would be South Carolina's lieutenant governor became urgent Tuesday when Gov. Nikki Haley was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. Haley then resigned, elevating Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, R-Richland, to the post of governor. That move vacated the lieutenant governor's post. Last week, however, the S.C. Supreme Court ruled the Senate president pro tempore would replace McMaster as lieutenant governor. Senators are expected Wednesday to elect state Sen. Kevin Bryant, R-Anderson, to ascend to the lieutenant governor's office.

Todd Anderson with the DOT says drivers can use this website to track the progress of projects near their house. The new website isn't expensive for the state to operate because SCDOT already had most of the data. The Project Viewer is found on the homepage of the SCDOT website.

Deputy City manager Jimmy Bagley has issued a letter to the group fixing the Rock Hill Fountain in downtown Fountain Park saying if don't finish the fountain by a certain deadline he would bring in a new company to finish construction and bill the current company. Bagley says the delay has come because of air leaks that continue to be found.

South Carolina roads have deteriorated so badly that it will take a decade just to climb out of the maintenance hole created over the past five years, the head of the state's transportation department told a

Senate committee Wednesday. Director Christy Hall thanked legislators for laws passed in 2013 and last year that allow for roughly \$5 billion worth of highway construction over the next decade or so, largely through borrowing. She called the laws good first steps. But roughly \$28 billion is still needed over the next 25 years to bring the state's existing highway system — the nation's fourth-largest — up to good condition. More than half of roadways have fallen into poor condition and will require complete reconstruction, causing repair costs to skyrocket, she said. Legislators again say fixing South Carolina's roadways is their top priority for the session.

Tega Cay City Council voted last week to hire a company to help moderate the coyotes in the area. Song Dog Wildlife Management will place traps with rubber teeth in areas that have called in the most complaints about coyotes. Tega Cay Councilwoman Dottie Hersey was not on board with the vote.

After 13 years of service Paul Boger has retired from his post as the executive director of the York Chamber of Commerce. Boger talked about what he is most proud of from his time in service. He has been replaced by Mark Katherine Ward who he thinks will do an excellent job in his former role. The Great York Chamber of Commerce will hold their annual meeting and Gala at the McCelvey Center tonight.

State representative Tommy Pope has announced that he will make a run at the 5th District congressional seat formerly held by Mick Mulvaney. The seat became open after Mulvaney was elected to President Donald Trump's staff as the Director of the Office of Budget and Management. Pope says he has received an outpouring of support in the past weeks and him and his wife prayerfully considered this decision before making an announcement. Pope joins Rock Hill legislator Ralph Norman, Indian Land attorney Kris Wampler National Director of Faith and Engagement Chad Connelly and anti-Common Core activist Sheri Few as those who have announced intentions to run.

Comporium will be making new hires due to sustained growth in northern York and Lancaster Counties. The company said yesterday that they are looking to hire 50 people to fill sales positions. Comporium is looking to fill half of the positions by April and the first of two job fairs will be held this Thursday on White Street in Lancaster with another job fair at a later date. Interested applicants can apply online and send resumes to [employment@comporium.com](mailto:employment@comporium.com).

A proposal that could eventually raise South Carolina's gas tax by 10 cents per-gallon and increase various other fees cleared a House subcommittee Tuesday. The measure tries to raise the funds to pay for \$600 million in new roadwork each year by slowly raising the gas tax by 2 cents per year until it's 26 cents per-gallon. Rock Hill Republican Gary Simrill told the South Carolina Radio Network that the new revenue will go into a special trust fund that can only go towards road maintenance or upgrades.

The family of 16 year old Eric Helms from Northwestern High School who was expelled after officials found a pocket knife was found in the back of his truck earlier this month...has officially appealed the expulsion to the school district. Helm's mother Tabitha Pruitt. Pruitt said she mailed in the appeal on Monday and has talked to Executive Director of Student Services for the Rock Hill School District Dr. Keith Wilkes as well. The 300 page appeal contains a multitude of items. Pruitt said they are looking into Odyssey Online School due to the fact that he could not get into any other school. She hopes to hear back from Wilkes sometime next week.

The York Regional Chamber of Commerce held their annual meeting and awards program last night. Over 500 members from the business community were in attendance to receive awards...reflect on accomplishments and look ahead. President of the Chamber Rob Youngblood said it is the biggest business gathering of the year and that they want to create the best business atmosphere for Rock Hill moving forward. The event was held at the Baxter Hood Center beside York Technical College.

According to Councilwoman Kathy Pender...public transportation to Rock Hill is not a done deal....but it is en route. Last night City Council voted 4 to 3 to approve the purchase of no more than 6.6 million dollars for the purchases of electric buses and infrastructure to support them. Council members Kevin Sutton, John Black and Jim Reno voted in opposition, arguing that they wanted more information. Both Winthrop and Piedmont Medical Center have voiced their intention to help financially support the transit system.

A bill that would allow out-of-state concealed weapons permit holders to carry in South Carolina continues to advance in the legislature despite the concerns of several lawmakers about the permitting process in other states. On a 18-6 vote, a House panel sent the bill to the floor with minor changes. It would require the state to recognize the concealed weapons permit of all 50 states – including those that don't recognize South Carolina's. The panel also attached an amendment by House Minority Leader Todd Rutherford, D-Richland, that requires out-of-state permit holders be 21 years old; some states issue permits to 18 year olds. South Carolina law bars state residents under 21 from obtaining a concealed weapons permit.

Close to 25 protesters marched on Senator Lindsey Graham's Rock Hill office to deliver handwritten letters and stories of their positive experiences with the ACA. Many said an immediate repeal would leave them or their families in danger. Several York County protesters said Tuesday that repealing the Affordable Care Act without a viable and immediate replacement is "irresponsible," and called on Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-SC, to vote accordingly.

South Carolina Congressman Mick Mulvaney is scheduled for a full Senate confirmation vote this morning (Thursday) for the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. Most Democrats oppose him, but only two took to the Senate Floor Wednesday to speak against his nomination. Then two more this morning including Democratic Virginia Senator and former Vice Presidential candidate Tim Kaine. The quorum was then called and the vote was then taken. Mick Mulvaney is now officially the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. Arizona Senator John McCain was the lone dissenting Republican vote.

Workers at Boeing's North Charleston plant decided by a three-to-one margin Wednesday they will not unionize. The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) had petitioned last month for more than 2,800 workers at the site to decide whether the union should represent them in collective bargaining. It was the union's second attempt to organize the workers, following an unsuccessful 2015 effort. Boeing officials praised the result... saying they would remain committed to a strong relationship with employees.

One of South Carolina's seats in Congress is now open after Mick Mulvaney stepped down Thursday to take a new position as White House budget director. Six Republicans have announced they plan to run for the seat, including Rock Hill legislator Ralph Norman... who resigned his own seat in the state House just minutes after Mulvaney's confirmation. Norman could have kept his seat while campaigning... but said he wanted voters to replace him at the same time... in order to save money and avoid another special election if he's elected to Congress.

A York County lawmaker has filed a bill to ban the Confederate flag in any South Carolina public building, including the county's courthouse. Currently, a state law called the Heritage Act protects the flag from being removed without legislative approval. Lawmaker John King filed the bill to ban the flag after an ongoing controversy about it in the York County Courthouse. In 2015, South Carolina lawmakers removed the Confederate battle flag from the statehouse grounds. That move came after pictures surfaced showing the Charleston church shooter, Dylann Roof, posing with the flag.

With Pennies for Progress Four approaching Rock Hill Deputy City Manager Jimmy Bagley approached York County Council last night to propose a Pennies 4 Utility Relocation Policy to avoid problems the county ran into with Pennies 3. Bagley is hoping to combine utility expenses into the pennies plan instead of trying to fund them after it is passed in order to save some money. Councilwoman Christi Cox was on board with the idea but wanted to see the list of projects before making any decision. City manager Jimmy Bagley projects 30 to 40 million dollars of utilities work that will need to be done with Pennies four. The policy discussion was tabled until the next meeting so more information could be gathered.

A state House panel has advanced legislation that would allow the use of medical marijuana in South Carolina. A medical panel voted 3-0 on Tuesday.. with one legislator abstaining... to send it to the full House committee after listening to dozens of patients testify they believe cannabis can ease their chronic pain or PTSD. James Prevoux said he was able to use the drug for intestinal issues while living in Colorado, before moving back to South Carolina to care for his ailing mother. But law enforcement officials had concerns about legalizing drugs without FDA approval. State Law Enforcement Division Chief Mark Keel said the bill does not take steps to prevent a black market. Kingstree Democrat Cezar McKnight accused law enforcement of wanting to keep marijuana illegal so they could keep using seized drug money to pay for new equipment. The bill still faces long odds of becoming law. If it does, doctors could not prescribe marijuana... but they could recommend patients go to dispensaries for the drug.

The latest Winthrop Poll results show that 47% of South Carolina residents disapprove of how President Donald Trump is handling the nation's top job, while 44% approve. His approval numbers in South Carolina are higher than his current national approval rating. Within his own party, the 45th president has support from 77% of residents who are GOP or lean Republican. Donald Trump received nearly 55% of the November presidential votes cast in South Carolina.

Kevin Cook is no longer the coach of the Winthrop women's basketball team. The program announced in a release earlier today that the team and Cook have mutually and amicably agreed to part ways effective immediately. Cook was indefinitely suspended for a personnel matter on January 25th. He was the University's Head Women's Basketball Coach since the 2012-13 season and led Winthrop to its first NCAA Tournament appearance and its first WNIT win. A reason was not given for the split. Current acting head coach Lynette Woodard will finish the season as Interim head coach.

Charges will not be filed against a Rock Hill nightclub owner whom authorities said shot and killed a patron in January, the York County Sheriff's Office announced Friday. Sheriff Kevin Tolson said after a thorough review of the facts and circumstances, it was determined by the Sheriff's Office and solicitor's office that the shooting was a justified act of self-defense. Elkins and a group of friends got into an altercation Jan. 15 in the Hideaway Club and were asked to leave, according to investigators. Elkins and his group headed toward the parking lot and then later returned to the club, authorities said. Investigators said Teal refused to allow Elkins to re-enter the business, and Elkins hit Teal in the head. Authorities said Teal pulled a gun and fired two shots, one of which hit Elkins and killed him.

Police in York County used a sting on Internet sites Backpage and Craigslist to make prostitution and drug arrests Wednesday, police said. Officers found that ads for drugs were online on Craigslist, said Marvin Brown, commander of the York County Multijurisdictional Drug Enforcement Unit. Officers also placed ads on a Backpage site for prostitution, Brown said. Prostitution is illegal in South Carolina. State Law Enforcement Division agents, deputies from the York County Sheriff's Office anti crime team and drug agents did a reverse sting at a hotel on Carowinds Boulevard, police said. Five people were charged with prostitution, said Trent Faris, spokesman for the sheriff's office.

Deputies from the York County Sheriff's Office didn't have to look far for a drug arrest Friday - a Charlotte man was charged with methamphetamine possession in the parking lot, yards from the law enforcement center and courthouse. The man didn't have to go far to go to jail; the York County Detention Center is in the same building. Kevin Michael Tracey, 40, of Charlotte, was charged Friday with felony meth possession, second offense, said Marvin Brown, commander of the York County Multijurisdictional Drug Enforcement Unit. Court deputies found that Tracey had no license and charged him with driving without a license, jail records show. He remained jailed Friday at the York County Detention Center.

Winthrop Assistant Athletic Director for Communications Jack Frost has announced he will retire at the end of June after serving nearly 27 years at the University. Frost will close out a distinguished career in which he has directed Winthrop's publicity efforts since Oct. 15, 1990, first as sports information director and later as assistant AD for media relations. He will leave Winthrop after serving the second longest SID tenure in Big South Conference history.

In new court papers filed Monday, prosecutors said Joey Meek needs a harsher punishment than what's in federal guidelines. They say the tougher sentence should be an example for the horrible nature of Roof's actions and Meek not acting after Roof told him privately of his plans. Meek pleaded guilty last year to misprision of a felony and lying to federal agents... but prosecutors wanted to wait until after Roof's trial before proceeding further. The maximum sentence he faces is eight years... but normal procedure is that he would get a lesser punishment for pleading guilty on his own. Meek had previously said he didn't take Roof seriously.

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An alleged drug dealer wanted by police in Chester since last year was arrested Monday in Rock Hill by a violent crime unit, according to police. Kevin Gerard Grier, 27, of Chester, faces four felony cocaine distribution charges, according to jail records in Chester County. Police with the violent crime apprehension team at the Rock Hill Police Department found Grier, who has been on the run for months, and took him into custody before turning him over to Chester authorities.

The South Carolina House passed the South Carolina Infrastructure and Economic Development Reform Act earlier today with a 97-18 vote. The bill, which will raise over \$600 million dollars in new road funds, will do so largely by increasing the gas tax by 10 cents over a 5 year period. House Speaker Jay Lucas said as the bill makes its way to the Senate, he hopes that the reform and funding components...included in the legislation...will be seriously considered and a long-term, sustainable solution will be quickly agreed upon.

The S.C. House Wednesday passed, 100-3, a measure that would bring the state's driver's licenses in line with federal security standards. Called Real ID, the new licenses are required for S.C. citizens to be able to use their driver's licenses to enter military installations, federal buildings or even board an airliner. Without a federally approved ID, visitors would have to show another form of federally accepted identification, primarily a passport, to gain entry.

South Pointe High School Athletic Director, Mike Drummond, has announced that he will retire from that position effective at the end of the current school year. Drummond has served in that capacity at South

Pointes since August 2006. In that particular year, the school served grades nine through eleven and offered its first year of varsity level competition in contact sports – football, wrestling and soccer.

York County is requesting an opinion from the South Carolina attorney general about whether it has to return a Confederate flag to the county's renovated courtroom.

Published reports say the county's lawyer wrote the attorney general last week, saying the flag and other Confederate items aren't monuments or memorials. The letter describes the items as decorations. The letter says the items don't meet the requirement of the S.C. Heritage Act that gives sole moving authority for monuments and memorials to the Legislature. Clerk of Court David Hamilton says the courthouse will reopen April 3 without the flag unless the attorney general says it must be returned. The flag and other items had been in the courtroom since the 1970s and were removed during renovations.

Chester County officials say a lawsuit by two firefighters against the sheriff's office has been settled. WRHI's partners Channel 9 report the terms of Monday's settlement have not been released. County attorney Joanie Winters says the county's insurance will pay the settlement. The firefighters' lawsuit said they were assaulted and improperly arrested in 2014. West Chester Volunteer Fire Chief Andy Martin and his brother, volunteer firefighter Tommy Martin, sued Sheriff Alex Underwood and his top deputies for false arrest and malicious prosecution. The men were jailed one night. Deputies arrested both men after a wreck in a storm Feb. 14, 2014. The South Carolina attorney general's office refused to prosecute the case. Sheriff's attorney Jim Davis says the settlement will save taxpayer's money by avoiding a trial.

Colonel Melinda Woodhurst a retired member of the United States Army has been appointed by the York County Legislative Delegation, as the Director of Veteran Affairs for York County. Woodhurst is a native of Lancaster South Carolina and served for twenty six years of military service as a Logistician. Following her military retirement, Colonel Woodhurst, USA, Ret., served as a Military Liaison to Sands Resorts, Director of Operations for American Traveling Tribute Director of Administration for the SC Department of Motor Vehicles, and as a Veteran Advisor to the SC National Guard. She is replacing Joe Medlin who will be taking another position with York County.

Earlier this week it was reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics that annual job growth for York County more than tripled the national average. Knowledge Park is one of the up and coming areas of growth for Rock Hill and York County. Stephen Turner...Director of Rock Hill Urban and Economic Development and is glad is occurring in this economy as opposed to one in a recession. York County's largest growth between September of 2015 and 2016 came in the professional and business services sector, which adds up to 15 percent growth and 1408 new jobs.

The Rock Hill City Council will make a decision tonight on whether to make changes regarding short term rentals. The Rock Hill Planning Commission met last Tuesday and decided to recommend against making those changes. Many people around the community spoke on behalf of short term rentals...specifically Air BnB, which is an app where people can locate available houses in the area where they might stay. Moe Bell...CEO of the upper palmetto YMCA does Air BnB in Rock Hill and said it can often be difficult for people coming up to the area to stay in a hotel. The proposed changes would allow-Short-term rentals of less than 14 days per calendar year but Vacation rentals where the property has no primary occupant would be prohibited.

Rock Hill South Carolina was one of six cities recognized for implementing programs that promote and enhance cultural diversity in their community. The League of Cities presented Rock Hill with the award for their work in creating Freedom Walkway in downtown Rock Hill. The walkway is in honor of the nine individuals who chose to perform a sit in during the civil rights area. The walkway includes many items recognizing civil rights including 9 chairs to honor those 9 individuals. Other cities receiving

awards were Morrisville, N.C.; Decatur, Ga.; Rock Hill, S.C.; Westminster, Co.; Winston-Salem, N.C.; and Aurora, CO.

Pat Kelsey...now former coach of the Winthrop Eagles Men's Basketball Team is now head coach at the University of Massachusetts. Many have suggested Winthrop Associate Head Coach Mark Prosser would be a good fit for the position. Kelsey Coached the Eagles from 2012 to 2017 with a record of 102 and 59.

Two days after signing to be Head Coach at the University of Massachusetts Pat Kelsey is returning to be the Head Basketball Coach of the Winthrop Eagles. The University of Massachusetts Press Release said Kelsey had a change of heart and Umass Athletic Director Ryan Bamford said had no indication Pat Kelsey was going to back out of the job

Howard Herman a sports columnist for a Massachusetts newspaper was at the press conference yesterday and said the Athletic Director was tough to read. Voice of the Winthrop Eagles Dave Friedman...who was not surprised that the Minutemen hired Kelsey...was more taken off guard this time around. Former Winthrop Coach Gregg Marshall announced he was leaving for College of Charleston back in 2006 before changing his mind and returning to Winthrop.

If all goes according to plan Fountain Park should have a working fountain once again by the time Come See Me rolls around next month. Deputy City Manager Jimmy Bagley said they are putting the finishing touches on the fountain before adding the final layer. Bagley said if there is any way to shorten the time they will. This process would have the fountain complete by the middle of Come See Me.

Sindarius Thornwell scored 26 points and South Carolina earned its first trip to the Final Four with a 77-70 victory over Florida on Sunday. The seventh-seeded Gamecocks (26-10) used their trademark swarming defense and some solid free throw shooting to beat their fellow Southeastern Conference Gators (27-9) in the East Regional final at Madison Square Garden. South Carolina will face Gonzaga, the No. 1 seed from the West Regional, in the Final Four on Saturday at Glendale, Arizona Saturday at 6:09 PM and you can hear that game on interstate 107.

After constructing a 250,000 square foot building with 1200 employees in Fort Mill, Lash Group is starting on another 173 thousand square foot building that may bring the job total up to 2500 employees. The site is located at the SC Highway 160 Interchange off I-77. Earlier last week, Fort Mill Mayor Guynn Savage acknowledged that Lash had started land preparation for a second building and a 1,200-car parking deck at the Kingsley site. She says the growth in employment for Lash and LPL Financial are spurring an economic recovery for Fort Mill.

28 years of service and its coming to an end as Rock Hill mayor Doug Echols has announced he will not be running for re election. Echols felt it was time for another generation to step forward and time for him to move onto new adventures. Former city councilman John Gettys is holding a press conference at 11 am where he will announce his candidacy for mayor.

The Come See Me Festival held their annual Chariman's Breakfast this morning at Manchester Meadows in Rock Hill. At the breakfast they announced the chair for next year's festival, Chet Tucker. Tucker has volunteered with the Festival since 2007.

South Carolina's Medicaid chief has resigned to return to the private sector. S.C. Health and Human Services Director Christian Soura is stepping down from the Cabinet post, S.C. Gov. Henry McMaster announced Thursday. Soura's resignation from the \$159,130-a-year job will take effect next Friday. Former Gov. Nikki Haley named Soura in 2014 to head the state's Medicaid agency, overseeing a roughly \$7.4 billion budget including state and federal dollars..

A teen formerly from York, South Carolina, is accused of trying to board a plane in Charleston to join ISIS. The U.S. attorney said Zack Abdin, 18, was stopped Thursday night as he tried to leave the country from Charleston. He was charged several years ago in York with a weapons violation. He claimed that he wanted to join ISIS during his arrest, authorities said.